

Reid back from shoulder injury

67s' defenceman showing strongly since recent return

By **STEVE LeBLANC**
The Champion

Elgin Reid has a huge weight off his shoulders — well, at least one of them.

Although working out and traveling with the Ottawa 67s kept him focused and relatively positive, Milton's lone OHLer couldn't completely fight back the frustration while a separated right shoulder sidelined him through most of the first half of 2004/05.

Fortunately, that seems to be behind him.

While still awaiting results of last month's MRI, the 17-year-old defenceman returned to the lineup December 28 against Oshawa — helping the 67s prevail 4-1 — and has played all six games since.

And the pain suffered during a brief, ill-conceived comeback in October has yet to resurface.

"You have no idea how great it is to be back," said the rugged second-year blueliner, who missed part of last season with an injured left shoulder. "It's such a great feel-

ing to be playing again."

Reid hasn't just suited up since the holiday break, but thrived as well — with some stabilizing play in his own end and five points in the last four games.

Among those was his first Major-Junior goal, which came during second-period play in Friday's 3-2 win over Erie. "It was a three-on-two rush. I took a pass from Jakub Petruzalek and just went five-hole. I don't know how many posts I've hit in the past year-and-a-half, so it was nice to get the monkey off my back.

"It's not like it's my job to score, but it's great to chip in offensively. I've seen a ton of ice time since being back and think I've done pretty well."

Head coach Brian Kilrea agrees.

"The emergence of Elgin has made our team much better. I like the way we've progressed with him in the lineup."

Ottawa's longtime bench boss added that Reid's return allowed him the opportunity to swing a deal with Sault Ste. Marie to acquire defenceman David Jarram —

who's now billeting with Reid.

The 67s and Greyhounds have actually made two trades in the past month, which Reid feels has bolstered his team's physical presence substantially.

"I wouldn't want to say we had soft guys before, but we're definitely more of a crash and bang team now," he said.

Reid tallied three assists in a 6-6 tie with Oshawa January 2, and has been a +5 with two points in three games since then — most recently finishing a +3 in Sunday's 5-2 home-ice victory over Toronto.

"Things are going great," said the sophomore defenceman.

Now 18-16-5-1, the 67s have an opportunity to take over sole possession of second place in the East Division tomorrow evening with a road trip to Belleville.

Area fans can see Reid compete close to home later this month, when he and Ottawa visit Brampton January 30 for a 2 p.m. start against the Central Division-leading Battalion.



Elgin Reid

Minor peewees snap winless streak

It was part excitement, part relief and all victory for the minor peewee AA Winterhawks Wednesday night at Milton Sports Centre.

Fueled by a season high four-goal outburst by Sean McGovern, the Dunsford Landscaping-sponsored locals rallied from second and third-period deficits to post their first league win in more than three months — outdistancing Caledon 7-5.

Brandon Bodiam's steady cage work and a gritty two-way effort by Kevin Thomson factored heavily into the monkey-off-their-backs triumph as well.

"This was a long time coming," said head coach Dale Waller, of his team's second regular-season victory. "When we lost to Caledon 8-3 back in November, I said we were going to beat these guys, and thankfully that happened. Our level of play had been increasing over the last two weeks and we were just able to break it open Wednesday."

McGovern struck in the first and sank Milton's last three goals, with the game winner coming on an intercepted pass in his own end and a lengthy bullet in low with under three minutes remaining. He put things away with an unassisted empty netter.

Marcus Dunsford tallied twice, while Mark Nordstrom rounded out the scoring. Drawing two assists each were Thomson and Brandon Nichols, while single helpers went to James Hart, Cameron Hryciw, Luke Kimmerer and Nico Senra.

This past weekend the Winterhawks were in tough at the Barrie Tournament, with a 2-2 tie against Whitby sandwiched

by a 6-1 loss to Timmins and 5-1 defeat to Guelph.

Nichols and Colin McNabb scored in the round-two stalemate, with Bodiam between the pipes.

The AA minor peewees are back in action tomorrow evening at Milton Sports Centre against Georgetown. Game time is 7:45 p.m.

Juveniles thrash Cayuga to strengthen hold on first

Milton's AA juveniles strengthened their hold on top spot in the Niagara District League by pasting host Cayuga 9-1 Saturday night.

While continued production was certainly encouraging, assistant coach Bill Wilson said he was more pleased with the composure shown during the physically-intense game — particularly from prime targets Derek Blanchard and Harley Mouscos.

"These guys took a real beating but kept their cool," he said. "That's what we need

from these guys heading into the playoffs."

Recently back from playing Jr. A out west, Kyle Burrell led with two goals and two assists. Chris Whiting also tallied twice, while also standing out with a goal and two helpers was Mark Galick.

Blanchard, Wes McDougall and Barry Kosmalski did the rest of the scoring.

In net for the lopsided win was Jason Strong.

The Winterhawks have three more regular season games, which come in as many days this week — starting with Thursday's home-ice tilt with Wainfleet at Milton Sports Centre at 8:45 p.m.

They head to Fort Erie Friday and then close things out at Memorial Arena at 8 p.m. Saturday against Hagersville.



Cross-border basketball clash in area this weekend

Basketball lovers may want to head up the road to Georgetown this weekend.

That's when Georgetown District High School will host Indiana's Mishawaka High School's boys teams during a two-day showcase beginning Friday evening.

Still unbeaten this season and an honourable mention in the state's top-20 rankings, Mishawaka is the former stomping ground of legendary coach Norman Wood, whose state championship victory with the 1954 Milan cagers over Muncie was the inspiration for the movie Hoosiers.

Mishawaka will bring its own broadcast crew to Georgetown, and take on the host

Rebel juniors at 6:30 p.m. Friday and Georgetown's seniors at 8 p.m.

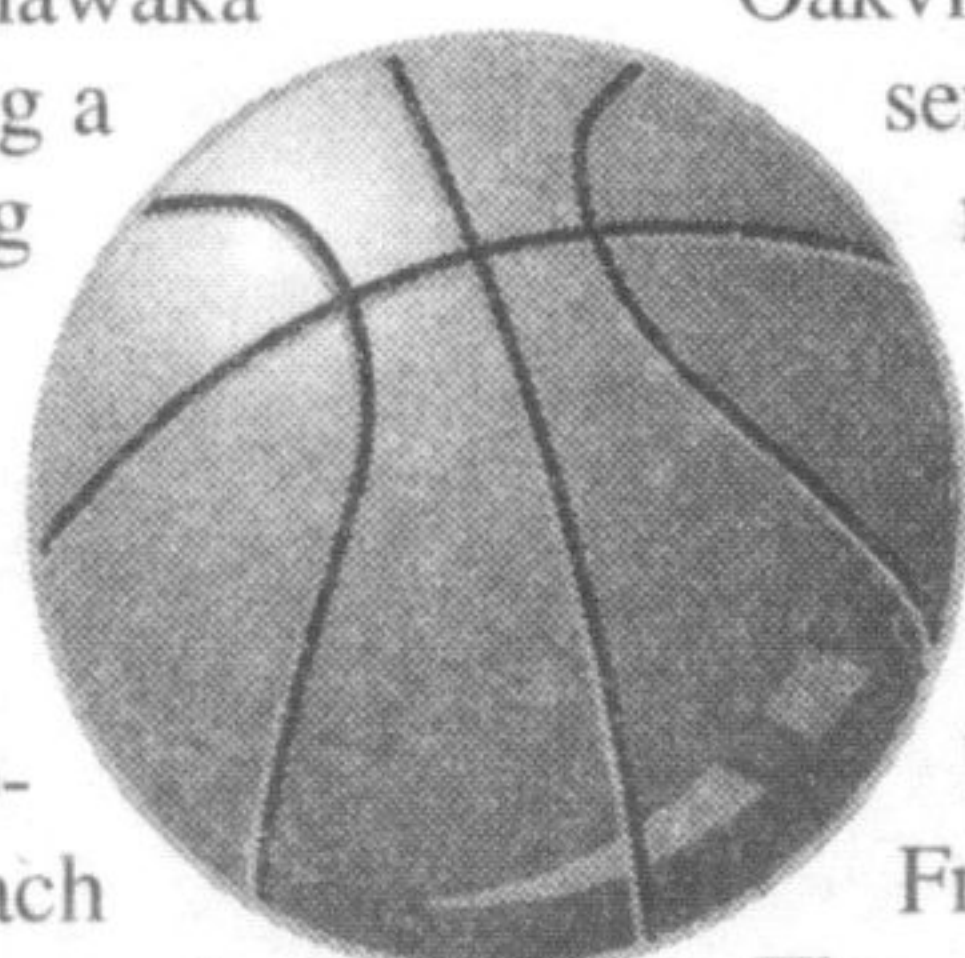
Saturday Mishawaka will do battle with Oakville's Iroquois Ridge juniors and seniors at 11 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. respectively.

Georgetown's seniors and juniors are both unbeaten this season as well.

The host Rebels will also hold a mini coaching clinic Friday from 4:45 to 6:15 p.m.

The cost is \$15 per person and will cover both instruction and a meal afterwards.

Those interested in attending can register with Georgetown coach Steve Pettit at spettit4@hotmail.com.



Business without advertising is like winking in the dark ~ You know what you're doing ~ but nobody else does!

Marauders look to fill volunteer posts

The national champion Marauders are looking to fill a couple of volunteer positions for the 2005 season.

Those interested in becoming either a fundraiser co-ordinator or audio-video specialist — requiring some road game taping — are asked to call Len Watkins at (905) 690-9623.

The Marauders, now officially a non-profit organization, will hold their annual general meeting Sunday from 1 to 2:30 p.m. at the Milton Leisure Centre.

The meeting is open to anyone and will include 2005 initiatives and other general topics of interest.

Look in Today's Paper*
for
Your Flyer From

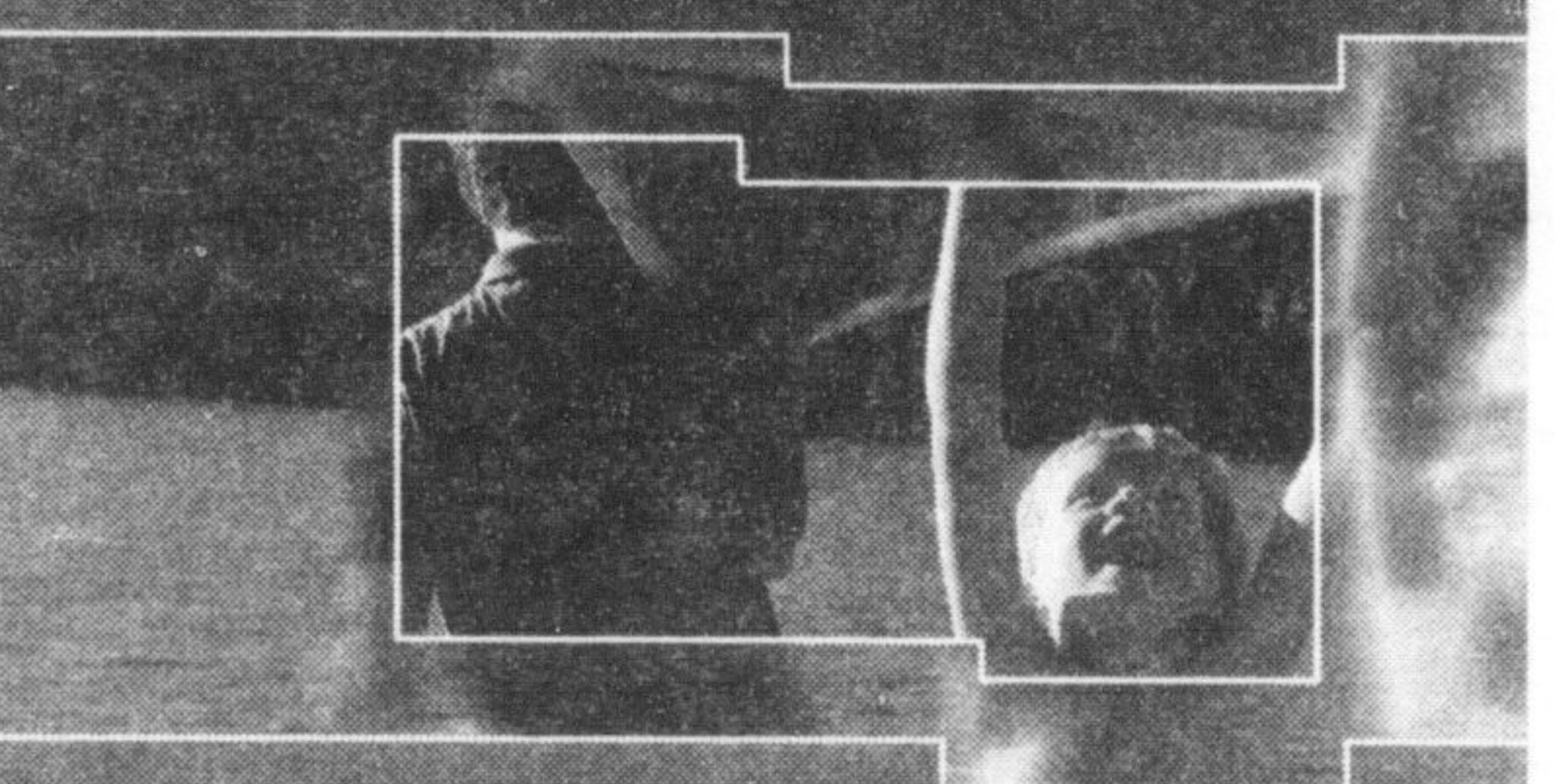


WINDOWS • DOORS • SIDING

*Selected areas only

ING

Your money is ready.
Are you?



Get organized.
Get a plan.
Get ahead.

We would like to welcome Ian Lowe as the newest member of the HJM TEAM. Ian is looking forward to assisting you with your Investment and Life Insurance needs. Call to learn more about the variety of products and services we provide.

Ian Lowe
ian.lowe@jhminsurance.com
775 Main Street East, Unit 1A
Milton, ON, L9T 3Z3
Phone: 905-875-4607
Fax: 905-876-1457
www.hjminsurance.com

